

STATE OF THE UNION

GOOD EVENING. I'M
BOB DOLE, AND I'M
HERE TO REPLY TO THE
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ON THE STATE OF THE
UNION.

BUT A REPLY NEED NOT
BE AN ARGUMENT.

INSTEAD, I WANT TO
PRESENT ANOTHER
VIEW, ANOTHER WAY OF
THINKING ABOUT THE
PROBLEMS WE FACE.

A FEW YEARS BACK, I
MET WITH A GROUP OF
100 HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS -- ONE YOUNG
MAN AND
WOMAN FROM EVERY
STATE.

DURING THE MEETING,
ONE YOUNG MAN STOOD
UP AND SAID:

"SENATOR,
"EVERYBODY HAS
SOMEBODY WHO SPEAKS
FOR THEM.

"BUT WHO SPEAKS FOR
US?" HE ASKED ME.
"WHO SPEAKS FOR THE
FUTURE?"

THAT'S WHAT I WANT
TO TALK WITH YOU
ABOUT TONIGHT.

THE FUTURE, AND THE
VALUES THAT WILL
SHAPE IT.

THOSE VALUES ARE AT
THE HEART OF OUR
DISAGREEMENTS WITH
THE PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
SAYS OUR DIFFERENCES
ARE FEW, THE BUDGET
NUMBERS ARE CLOSE
AND THAT WE SHOULD
TRY TO FIND COMMON
GROUND.

WE HAVE TRIED AND
TRIED, AGAIN AND
AGAIN. BUT SUCH A
PLACE APPEARS TO BE *elusive*
~~AN ILLUSION.~~

FOR WHILE WE SHARE
AN ABIDING LOVE OF
COUNTRY, WE HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO
AGREE.

WHY? BECAUSE WE
HAVE STARKLY
DIFFERENT
PHILOSOPHIES OF
GOVERNMENT AND
PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT
VISIONS OF AMERICA.

SO ALL THE TALK AND
FIGHTING IN
WASHINGTON CAN SEEM
VERY REMOTE. AND WE
POLITICAL FIGURES
CAN SEEM DETACHED,
AND PETTY, AND FAR
REMOVED FROM THE

EVERY DAY STRUGGLE
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
AND FAMILIES.

BUT, THE TRUTH IS,
WE ~~CAN~~ IGNORE THE
FUTURE.

Cannot
THE POINT OF OUR
LIVES, AFTER ALL, IS
TO RAISE CHILDREN
WHO ARE SMARTER AND
HEALTHIER AND NOBLER
THAN WE ARE;

TO CONTRIBUTE TO A
COUNTRY THAT IS
BETTER THAN TODAY'S
AMERICA;

TO MAKE A WORLD
THAT IS BETTER AND
FINER FOR ALL OF
GOD'S CREATION.

AMERICA'S GREATNESS
-- ALL THAT WE TAKE
SUCH JUSTIFIED PRIDE
IN TODAY --
AMERICA'S GREATNESS
WAS BUILT BY MEN AND
WOMEN WHO SACRIFICED
EASE AND COMFORT AND
THE JOYS OF TODAY, TO
BUILD A BETTER
FUTURE FOR THOSE WHO
CAME AFTER.

HOW MANY PIONEERS
FACED A HOSTILE AND
THREATENING
FRONTIER;

HOW MANY IMMIGRANTS
GAVE THEIR BODIES TO

THE MINES;

HOW MANY SOLDIERS
LOST THEIR LIVES
ON DISTANT
BATTLEFIELDS, TO
SECURE A BETTER
FUTURE FOR THEIR
CHILDREN AND THEIR
CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

IN EVERY GENERATION,
AMERICANS HAVE MADE
THESE SACRIFICES,
AND FOUND IN THEIR
MAKING A PURPOSE AND
A DIRECTION TO LIFE.

NOW, WE HAVE TO DO
THAT, IN THIS
GENERATION.

THANKS TO GOD AND
FORTUNE, AND TO
THOSE WHO WENT
BEFORE, WE DON'T
HAVE TO CONQUER A
DANGEROUS FRONTIER,
WE DON'T HAVE TO
FIGHT ANOTHER GREAT
WAR.

WHAT WE DO HAVE TO
DO IS FACE THE FACT
THAT WE CANNOT GIVE
IN TO ALL OF OUR OWN
DESIRES.

AS WE HAVE JUST
HEARD, PRESIDENT
CLINTON, AND THOSE
WHO SHARE HIS VISION
OF AMERICA, HAVE
CHOSEN THEIR GROUND.

THE PRESIDENT HAS
CHOSEN TO DEFEND,
WITH HIS VETO, A
WELFARE SYSTEM THAT
NO ONE CAN DEFEND --
FOR IT IS A DAILY
ASSAULT ON THE
VALUES OF
SELF-RELIANCE AND
FAMILY.

HE HAS CHOSEN TO
DEFEND AN EDUCATION
ESTABLISHMENT RUN BY
LIBERALS WHOSE GOAL
IS TO OPERATE EVERY
SCHOOL IN AMERICA BY
REMOTE CONTROL FROM
WASHINGTON.

HE HAS CHOSEN TO
VETO A DEFENSE BILL
BECAUSE IT PROVIDED
FOR DEFENDING
AMERICA AGAINST
WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION.

HE HAS CHOSEN TO
DEFEND THE STATUS
QUO IN MEDICARE -- A
SYSTEM ON WHICH
LIVES DEPEND, AND A
PROGRAM IN URGENT
NEED OF RESCUE.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
HAS CHOSEN TO DEFEND
and INCREASE A TAX
BURDEN THAT HAS
PUSHED COUNTLESS
FAMILIES INTO THEIR
OWN PERSONAL
RECESSIONS.

AND HE HAS CHOSEN TO
VETO THE FIRST
BALANCED BUDGET IN A
GENERATION, OFFERING
ONLY A FANTASY IN
ITS PLACE.

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD
ASLEEP IN YOUR HOME
TONIGHT, YOU'LL
PROBABLY CHECK ON
HIM OR HER BEFORE
YOU GO TO BED.

AS YOU BEND OVER TO
TUCK YOUR CHILD IN,
THINK ABOUT THIS:

IF WE CONTINUE DOWN
THIS PATH WE WILL
PLACE A
TREMENDOUS BURDEN OF
DEBT ON EVERY CHILD
IN AMERICA.

HOW CAN WE BETRAY
THEM, THEIR PARENTS,
AND GRANDPARENTS?
HOW CAN WE FAIL TO
ACT?

WE CANNOT, AND WE
WILL NOT.

EVERY POLITICAL
MOVEMENT, AND EVERY
PUBLIC OFFICIAL,
MUST LOCATE A PLACE
IN HIS HEART WHERE
COMPROMISE ENDS -- A
CORE OF CONVICTION
WHERE WE KEEP OUR
CONSCIENCE.

THERE COMES A TIME

WHEN EVEN PRACTICAL
LEADERS MUST REFUSE
TO BEND OR YIELD.

FOR REPUBLICANS, AND
COUNTLESS DEMOCRATS
AND INDEPENDENTS, WE
HAVE ARRIVED AT THAT
TIME.

AMERICA'S TROUBLES
ARE REAL BUT OUR
CHOICES ARE CLEAR
AND OUR WILL IS
STRONG.

WE MUST REIN IN OUR
RUNAWAY GOVERNMENT,
RETURN POWER TO THE
PEOPLE, REDUCE THE
TAX BURDEN, PUT
PARENTS BACK IN
CHARGE OF OUR
SCHOOLS, UNTIE THE
HANDS OF OUR POLICE,
RESTORE JUSTICE TO
OUR COURTS AND PUT
OUR FAITH ONCE AGAIN
IN THE BASIC
GOODNESS, WISDOM AND
SELF-RELIANCE OF OUR
PEOPLE.

THE PRESIDENT SPOKE
WITH GREAT ELOQUENCE
ABOUT A FUTURE WITH
UNLIMITED
POSSIBILITIES.

IT IS A VISION WE
ALL SHARE, FOR IT IS
THE STORY OF
AMERICA.

BUT WHILE THE

PRESIDENT'S WORDS
SPEAK OF CHANGE, HIS
DEEDS ARE A
CONTRADICTION.

THE PRESIDENT CLAIMS
TO EMBRACE THE
FUTURE WHILE
CLINGING TO THE
POLICIES OF THE
PAST.

FOR THREE YEARS THIS
ADMINISTRATION HAS
VALUED DEPENDENCE ON
GOVERNMENT OVER
SELF-RELIANCE,
FEDERAL POWER OVER
COMMUNITY, FEDERAL
PLANNING OVER
INDIVIDUAL
ENTERPRISE.

IT HAS TRIED TO
PLACE GOVERNMENT
EXPERTS IN CHARGE OF
OUR ECONOMY, OUR
HEALTH AND OUR
LIVES.

IT HAS PUT LIBERAL
JUDGES ON THE BENCH
TO WAR WITH OUR
VALUES AND QUESTIONS
THE PARTICIPATION OF
RELIGIOUS PEOPLE IN
PUBLIC LIFE,
TREATING THEM AS
FANATICS OUT OF STEP
WITH AMERICA.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
SHARES A VIEW OF
AMERICA HELD BY OUR
COUNTRY'S ELITES:

A NATION OF SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUPS,
UNITED ONLY BY A
DEPENDENCE ON
GOVERNMENT,
COMPETING WITH EACH
OTHER FOR HAND-OUTS,
HELD BACK BY
OUT-DATED VALUES.

FOR THOSE WHO HOLD
THIS VIEW, THERE IS
ONLY ONE ANSWER FOR
OUR PROBLEMS:

MORE GOVERNMENT.
BIGGER GOVERNMENT.
MORE MEDDLESOME
GOVERNMENT.

IF YOU LISTENED
CLOSELY, THAT'S WHAT
PRESIDENT CLINTON
TALKED ABOUT
TONIGHT.

PRESIDENT CLINTON
MAY WELL BE THE
REARGUARD OF THE
WELFARE STATE.

HE IS THE CHIEF
OBSTACLE TO A
BALANCED BUDGET, AND
THE BALANCED BUDGET
AMENDMENT.

HE IS ALMOST THE
LAST PUBLIC DEFENDER
OF A DISCREDITED
STATUS QUO.

WE REPUBLICANS WILL
NOT GIVE UP THE
STRUGGLE BECAUSE

AMERICA
WILL ROUND THE
CORNER TO A BRIGHTER
FUTURE IF WE
PREVAIL.

I COME FROM RUSSELL,
KANSAS -- THERE'S
NOT MUCH MONEY
THERE, BUT THE
PEOPLE ARE RICH IN
MANY OTHER WAYS.

LIFE ISN'T EASY, BUT
THE VALUES ARE
DURABLE.

LOVE OF GOD AND
COUNTRY AND FAMILY.

COMMITMENT TO
HONESTY, DECENCY AND
PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY.

SELF-RELIANCE
TEMPERED BY A SENSE
OF COMMUNITY.

THOSE VALUES MADE
AMERICA THE GREATEST
NATION ON EARTH. AND
THERE IS NO DOUBT IN
MY MIND THAT WE CAN
GET OUR COUNTRY BACK
ON TRACK IF WE
REASSERT THEM AGAIN
AS A PEOPLE.

AND IF OUR
GOVERNMENT RETURNS
TO THEM AS A MATTER
OF NATIONAL POLICY.

JUST LIKE THE DEBATE

OVER THE BUDGET THIS
WINTER, OUR
ARGUMENTS THIS
SPRING WILL SEEM A
MAZE OF CONFLICTING
NUMBERS, ASSERTIONS
AND HIGH-SOUNDING
WORDS.

BUT WHAT WE'RE
REALLY ARGUING ABOUT
ARE THE VALUES THAT
WILL SHAPE OUR
NATION, OUR
GOVERNMENT, AND THE
FUTURE OF YOUR CHILD
SLEEPING DOWN THE
HALL.

SOME PEOPLE TRY TO
MAKE THESE MATTERS
COMPLICATED, BUT
THEY'RE SIMPLE IN MY
HOME TOWN -- AND
PROBABLY WHERE YOU
ARE, AS WELL.

AMERICANS KNOW THAT
HANDOUTS WITHOUT
RESPONSIBILITY
DESTROY HUMAN
DIGNITY.

WE KNOW THAT THE
HELP OF A NEIGHBOR
IS PREFERABLE TO
THAT OF A
BUREAUCRAT.

AND WE KNOW THAT
WEALTH IS CREATED BY
FREE INDIVIDUALS
WITH THEIR SMARTS
AND THEIR SWEAT.
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

CAN ONLY SPEND IT.

I AM A PRACTICAL
MAN, BUT I BELIEVE
IN THE MIRACLE OF
AMERICA.

I HAVE NEVER GONE IN
FOR DRAMATICS, BUT I
DO BELIEVE WE HAVE
REACHED A DEFINING
MOMENT.

IT'S AS IF WE WENT
TO SLEEP IN ONE
AMERICA, AND WOKE UP
IN ANOTHER.

IT'S AS THOUGH OUR
GOVERNMENT, OUR
INSTITUTIONS AND OUR
CULTURE HAVE BEEN
HIJACKED BY LIBERALS
AND ARE CAREENING
DANGEROUSLY OFF
COURSE.

WE KNOW THE WAY
BACK, BUT WE MUST
ACT NOW. MY PROMISE
TONIGHT IS THAT WE
CAN, AND WE WILL.

IF THERE IS NO
AGREEMENT,
WE WILL SEND
PRESIDENT CLINTON
ANOTHER BALANCED
BUDGET

WITH TAX RELIEF FOR
AMERICAN
FAMILIES....

REGULATORY RELIEF

FOR SMALL
BUSINESSES... *farmers + ranchers.*

AND REAL WELFARE
REFORM.

WE WILL BEGIN THE
DEFUNDING OF BIG
BROTHER BY UNFUNDING
WASTEFUL PROGRAMS
AND MEDDLESOME
DEPARTMENTS.

WE WILL SEND THE
PRESIDENT BILL
AFTER BILL,
RETURNING POWER AND
PROGRAMS TO THE
STATES.

WE WILL CHALLENGE
PRESIDENT
CLINTON AGAIN AND
AGAIN TO WALK THE
TALK HE TALKS SO
WELL.

AS WE DO, REMEMBER
THIS:

OUR BATTLES WILL NOT
BE ABOUT NUMBERS,
THEY'LL BE ABOUT THE
CHARACTER OF OUR
NATION.

YES, THIS COUNTRY
HAS PROBLEMS. BUT
WE CAN HANDLE THEM.

WHETHER IT'S DEFICIT
SPENDING OR THE
WELFARE BUREAUCRACY
OR OUR LIBERAL
COURTS OR THE

*always mindful of
the poor + disadvantaged -
education + the environment*

TROUBLES IN OUR
SCHOOLS -- WHAT'S
WRONG IS THAT THE
ELITES IN CHARGE
DON'T BELIEVE IN
WHAT THE PEOPLE
BELIEVE IN.

THAT, WE CAN FIX.

WE KNOW WHAT MADE
AMERICA GREAT. ALL
WE NEED NOW IS THE
RESOLVE TO LEAD OUR
COUNTRY BACK TO HER
PLACE IN THE SUN.

AND THE COURAGE TO
SPEAK FOR THE
FUTURE.

WHEN YOU CLOSE THE
DOOR TO YOUR CHILD'S
ROOM TONIGHT,
REMEMBER THAT IT'S
NOT TOO LATE.

THIS IS A GREAT
COUNTRY. OUR
STRENGTH HAS ALWAYS
COME FROM THE TRUTH,
AND FROM SACRIFICE
AND HONOR, AND FROM
THE BOTTOMLESS
RESERVOIR OF HOPE
AND WORK AND COURAGE
THAT IS THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

ALWAYS, WE HAVE
BUILT FOR THE
FUTURE, WITH A HALF-
SILENT CONSCIOUSNESS
THAT WE WERE
DOING THE WORK OF

THE LORD.

TODAY, WE FEEL
OURSELVES BESET BY
MANY DIFFICULTIES:

BY VIOLENCE AND
RESENTMENT, BY
RACIAL AND
PARTISAN
DIVISIONS, BY
ECONOMIC STORMS, BY
DIZZYING CHANGES OF
EVERY KIND.

YET, THE BLOOD OF
GREATNESS, OF NOBLE
FORBEARERS, OF MEN
AND WOMEN OF
INCREDIBLE
ACHIEVEMENT, STILL
RUNS THROUGH US ALL.

THAT BIRTHRIGHT IS
WHAT IT MEANS TO
BEAR THE NAME
"AMERICAN."

IN THIS TIME, IN
THIS GENERATION, IN
THIS YEAR, WE --
LIKE THEY -- CAN AND
WILL OVERCOME.

WE NEED ONLY
REDEDICATE OURSELVES
TO EARNING THE NAME
WE HAVE INHERITED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
GOD BLESS AMERICA
AND GOODNIGHT.

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STATE OF THE UNION

GOOD EVENING. I'M BOB DOLE, AND I'M SPEAKING TONIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

DON'T WORRY: I HAVEN'T GOT ANY CHARTS, AND I'M NOT GOING TO USE ANY NUMBERS. STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESSES ALWAYS MAKE FOR LONG EVENINGS, AND YOU'VE ALREADY ENDURED A FRUSTRATING WINTER OF DISCORD IN WASHINGTON. BUT I DO WANT TO TALK FOR JUST A MINUTE ABOUT WHY WE DISAGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS OUR DIFFERENCES ARE FEW, THE NUMBERS ARE CLOSE AND THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND COMMON GROUND. BUT SUCH A PLACE IS AN ILLUSION. FOR WHILE WE SHARE AN ABIDING LOVE OF COUNTRY, WE AGREE ON LITTLE ELSE. WE HAVE STARKLY DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES OF GOVERNMENT AND PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT VISIONS OF AMERICA. WE ARE NOT ENGAGED IN A POLITICAL GAME; WE ARE STRUGGLING TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF OUR UNION.

**YOU COULDN'T TELL THIS FROM
WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAYS. BUT IT'S
APPARENT IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT HE
DOES. PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND
THOSE WHO SHARE HIS VISION OF
AMERICA, HAVE CHOSEN THEIR
GROUND.**

**THE PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN TO
DEFEND, WITH HIS VETO, A WELFARE
SYSTEM THAT NO ONE SHOULD DEFEND
-- FOR IT IS A DAILY ASSAULT ON THE
VALUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND
FAMILY.**

**HE HAS CHOSEN TO DEFEND AN
EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT RUN BY
LIBERALS WHOSE GOAL IS TO OPERATE
EVERY SCHOOL IN AMERICA BY
REMOTE CONTROL FROM
WASHINGTON.**

**HE HAS CHOSEN TO DEFEND THE
PERILOUS STATUS QUO IN MEDICARE --
A SYSTEM ON WHICH LIVES DEPEND,
AND A PROGRAM IN URGENT NEED OF
RESCUE.**

**AND HE HAS CHOSEN TO VETO THE
FIRST BALANCED BUDGET IN A
GENERATION, OFFERING ONLY A
FANTASY IN ITS PLACE. IN HIS BUDGET
THE FIRST CUTS WOULD COME IN THE
NEXT CENTURY, LONG AFTER HE LEFT
OFFICE. YOU AND I KNOW WHAT THAT
MEANS: THOSE CUTS WOULD NEVER
COME AT ALL. THE PRESIDENT HAS NO
PLAN FOR THE MILLENNIUM WE ARE
IN, LET ALONE THE ONE OUR
CHILDREN WILL INHERIT.**

**IF YOU HAVE A CHILD ASLEEP IN
YOUR HOME TONIGHT, YOU'LL
PROBABLY CHECK ON HER BEFORE
YOU GO TO BED. AS YOU BEND OVER TO
TUCK HER IN, THINK ABOUT THIS: IF
WE CONTINUE DOWN THIS PATH WE
WILL PLACE A BURDEN OF DEBT ON
EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA AS LARGE
AS THE COST OF BUYING A NEW HOME;
STEALING THEIR SAVINGS, CRUSHING
THEM WITH TAXES. HOW CAN WE
BETRAY THEM SO? HOW CAN WE FAIL
TO ACT? WE CANNOT, AND WE WILL
NOT.**

EVERY POLITICAL MOVEMENT, AND EVERY PUBLIC OFFICIAL, MUST LOCATE A PLACE WHERE COMPROMISE ENDS -- A CORE OF CONVICTION WHERE WE KEEP OUR CONSCIENCE. THERE COMES A TIME WHEN EVEN PRACTICAL LEADERS MUST REFUSE TO BEND OR YIELD.

FOR REPUBLICANS, WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THAT TIME. AMERICA'S TROUBLES ARE REAL BUT OUR CHOICES ARE CLEAR AND OUR WILL IS STRONG.

**WE MUST REIN IN OUR RUNAWAY
GOVERNMENT, RETURN POWER TO THE
PEOPLE, REDUCE THE TAX BURDEN,
PUT PARENTS BACK IN CHARGE OF OUR
SCHOOLS, UNTIE THE HANDS OF OUR
POLICE, RESTORE SANITY TO OUR
COURTS AND PUT OUR FAITH ONCE
AGAIN IN THE GOODNESS AND WISDOM
AND SELF-RELIANCE OF OUR PEOPLE.**

**FOR THREE YEARS THIS
ADMINISTRATION HAS VALUED
ENTITLEMENT OVER SELF-RELIANCE,
FEDERAL POWER OVER COMMUNITY,
FEDERAL PLANNING OVER INDIVIDUAL
ENTERPRISE. IT HAS TRIED TO PLACE
ARROGANT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS IN
CHARGE OF OUR ECONOMY, OUR
HEALTH AND OUR LIVES. IT HAS PUT
LIBERAL JUDGES ON THE BENCH TO
WAR WITH OUR VALUES AND
DISMISSED RELIGIOUS PEOPLE FROM
PUBLIC LIFE AS FANATICS OUT OF STEP
WITH AMERICA.**

**TRAGICALLY, THIS ADMINISTRATION
HAS FOUND ITS BEST FRIENDS IN AN
ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY WHICH
HAS MADE A CAUSE OUT OF
DEGRADING OUR CULTURE. RONALD
REAGAN MAY HAVE COME FROM
HOLLYWOOD, BUT HIS VALUES WERE
SHAPED IN MIDDLE AMERICA.
PRESIDENT CLINTON HAILS FROM
ARKANSAS, BUT NO PRESIDENT HAS
EVER BEEN MORE CLOSELY TIED TO
HOLLYWOOD.**

THIS IS NO ACCIDENT.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON SHARES A VISION
OF AMERICA HELD BY OUR COUNTRY'S
ELITES: A NATION OF HYPHENATED
AMERICANS UNITED ONLY BY A
DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT,
COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER FOR
ENTITLEMENTS, HELD BACK BY OUT-
DATED VALUES. FOR THOSE WHO
HOLD THIS VIEW, THERE IS ONLY ONE
ANSWER FOR OUR PROBLEMS: MORE
GOVERNMENT. BIGGER GOVERNMENT.
MORE MEDDLESOME GOVERNMENT.**

**IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY, THAT'S
WHAT PRESIDENT CLINTON TALKED
ABOUT TONIGHT. AND THAT'S THE
RECORD OF HIS PRESIDENCY.**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON IS THE
REARGUARD OF THE WELFARE STATE.
HE IS THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO A
BALANCED BUDGET. AND HE IS
ALMOST THE LAST PUBLIC DEFENDER
OF A DISCREDITED STATUS QUO.**

**WE REPUBLICANS WILL NOT GIVE UP
THE STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE KNOW
THAT WHEN WE OVERCOME HIS
RESISTANCE, AMERICA WILL ROUND
THE CORNER TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE,
AND WE NEED NEVER LOOK BACK.**

**I KNOW AMERICA'S POTENTIAL. I
COME FROM RUSSELL, KANSAS --
THERE'S NOT MUCH MONEY THERE,
BUT THE PEOPLE ARE RICH IN MANY
OTHER WAYS. LIFE ISN'T EASY, BUT
THE VALUES ARE DURABLE. LOVE OF
GOD AND COUNTRY AND FAMILY.
COMMITMENT TO HONESTY, DECENCY**

**AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.
SELF-RELIANCE TEMPERED BY A SENSE
OF COMMUNITY. THOSE VALUES MADE
AMERICA THE GREATEST NATION ON
EARTH. AND THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY
MIND THAT WE CAN GET OUR
COUNTRY BACK ON TRACK IF WE
REASSERT THEM AGAIN AS A PEOPLE.
IF OUR GOVERNMENT RETURNS TO
THEM AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL
POLICY.**

**JUST LIKE THE DEBATE OVER THE
BUDGET THIS WINTER, OUR
ARGUMENTS OVER LEGISLATION THIS
SPRING WILL SEEM A MAZE OF
CONFLICTING NUMBERS, ASSERTIONS
AND HIGH-SOUNDING WORDS. BUT
WHAT WE'RE REALLY ARGUING ABOUT
ARE THE VALUES THAT WILL SHAPE
OUR GOVERNMENT, AND THE FUTURE
OF YOUR CHILD SLEEPING DOWN THE
HALL.**

**IN WASHINGTON, PEOPLE TRY TO
MAKE THESE MATTERS COMPLICATED,
BUT THEY'RE SIMPLE IN RUSSELL --
AND PROBABLY WHERE YOU COME
FROM, AS WELL.**

**AMERICANS KNOW THAT HANDOUTS
WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY DESTROY
HUMAN DIGNITY. WE KNOW THAT A
FAMILY ISN'T JUST ANYTHING WE SAY
IT IS -- IT'S A MOTHER AND A FATHER
AND THE CHILDREN THEY RAISE. WE
KNOW THAT THE HELP OF A NEIGHBOR
IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN THAT OF A
BUREAUCRAT.**

**AND WE KNOW THAT FREE
INDIVIDUALS CREATE WEALTH WITH
THEIR SMARTS AND THEIR SWEAT AND
THAT NO GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, NO
MATTER HOW WELL-INTENTIONED,
CAN EVER DO ANYTHING BUT DRAIN IT
AWAY.**

**I AM A PRACTICAL MAN, BUT I
BELIEVE IN THE MIRACLE OF AMERICA.
I DON'T GO IN FOR DRAMATICS, BUT I
DO BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A
DEFINING MOMENT. IT'S AS IF WE
WENT TO SLEEP IN RUSSELL AND WOKE
UP IN MR. CLINTON'S AMERICA.**

**IT'S AS THOUGH OUR GOVERNMENT,
OUR INSTITUTIONS AND OUR CULTURE
HAVE BEEN HIJACKED BY LIBERALS
AND ARE CAREENING DANGEROUSLY
OFF COURSE. WE KNOW THE WAY
BACK, BUT WE MUST ACT NOW. MY
PROMISE TONIGHT IS THAT WE CAN,
AND WE WILL.**

**WE WILL SEND PRESIDENT CLINTON
BALANCED BUDGET AFTER BALANCED
BUDGET. WE WILL CHALLENGE HIM
AGAIN AND AGAIN TO WALK THE TALK
HE TALKS SO WELL.**

**WE WILL SEND HIM ANOTHER
WELFARE REFORM BILL, ANOTHER TAX
CUT AND MORE REGULATORY RELIEF.
AND WE WILL BEGIN THE DEFUNDING
OF BIG BROTHER BY UNFUNDING
WASTEFUL PROGRAMS AND
MEDDLESOME DEPARTMENTS.**

**AS WE DO REMEMBER THIS: OUR
BATTLES WILL NOT BE ABOUT
NUMBERS, THEY'LL BE ABOUT THE
CHARACTER OF OUR NATION. YES,
THIS COUNTRY HAS PROBLEMS. BUT
WE CAN HANDLE THEM.**

**WHETHER IT'S DEFICIT SPENDING OR
THE WELFARE BUREAUCRACY OR OUR
LIBERAL COURTS OR THE TROUBLE IN
OUR SCHOOLS -- WHAT'S WRONG IS
THAT THE ELITES IN CHARGE DON'T
BELIEVE IN WHAT THE PEOPLE
BELIEVE IN. THAT WE CAN FIX.**

**WE KNOW WHAT MADE AMERICA
GREAT. ALL WE NEED NOW IS TO
RESOLVE TO LEAD OUR COUNTRY
BACK TO HER PLACE IN THE SUN.
WHEN YOU CLOSE THE DOOR TO YOUR
CHILD'S ROOM TONIGHT, REMEMBER
THAT IT'S NOT TOO LATE.**

**TOGETHER WE HAVE IT IN OUR POWER
TO BUILD FOR OUR CHILDREN AN
AMERICA AS BIG AS OUR DREAMS ... AS
STRONG AS OUR HEARTS ... AND AS
GREAT AS OUR HISTORY DEMANDS.
AND TOGETHER, WE WILL.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.